

As near *facsimile* as possible

THE
FOUR PRINCIPAL BATTLES

OF THE

LATE WAR

BEING A FULL DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE

BATTLE OF

**Chippeway, Fall and Destruction of the City
of Washington, Battles of Balti-
more, and New-Orleans.**

BY ADJUTANT P. M. DAVIS,
LATE OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY.

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BATTLE OF CHIPPEWAY

FROM Fort Erie the American army moved immediately upon Chippeway; General Scott's brigade was in the advance and took up a position within three-quarters of a mile of the enemy, encamped behind the Chippeway, a deep, still stream which runs into the Niagara, nearly at right angles, three miles above the falls. General Brown arrived with General Ripley's brigade about midnight. General P. B. Porter, with the New-York and Pennsylvania volunteers and Seneca warriors, arrived about sunrise on the morning of the 5th. July, 1814.

“The battle of Chippeway has been described as one of the most brilliant spectacles that could well be conceived. The day was clear and bright; the sun still high in the heavens. The plain was such as might have been selected for a parade or a tournament; the troops on both sides, though not numerous, admirably disciplined; the Generals leading on their columns in person, the glitter of the arms in the sun, and the precision and exactness of every movement, were all calculated to carry the mind back to ancient story or poetry, to the plains of Latium or of Troy, and all those recollections which fill the imagination with images of personal heroism and romantick valour.”*

The two armies being encamped within cannon shot distance the morning of the 5th was consumed in skirmishing.

At four o'clock in the afternoon General Porter commenced a circuitous movement on the left, which he concealed from the enemy until he had nearly reached the Chippeway. He met and drove back the light parties of the enemy, and soon found his progress stopped by their whole column, advancing in order of battle; but he engaged them with unshaken resolution.

*See Analectick Magazine.

From the cloud of dust rising and the heavy firing, General Brown very justly concluded that the entire force of the enemy were in march, and prepared for action, whereupon he immediately ordered General Scott to advance with his brigade and Towson's artillery, and meet them on the intervening plain. General Scott advanced with promptitude. In the meanwhile, General Porter's command had given way in spite of the personal gallantry and exertions of this distinguished officer. Captain Harris, with his dragoons, was directed to stop the fugitives behind the ravine fronting the American camp. General Ripley was ordered to advance with the 21st regiment which formed part of the reserve, pass to the left on the route taken by Porter, skirt the woods so as to keep out of view, and fall upon the rear of the enemy's right flank. This movement was promptly made; but the alacrity with which Scott's brigade marched to combat, and an equal eagerness with which the enemy sought the rencounter, accelerated the action and its results, and prevented the co-operation of the other corps of the army.

Of the three battalions of infantry composing the first brigade, the first consisted of the 9th and a detachment from the 22d regiment, under command of Major Leavenworth.* The second battalion, or the 11th regiment, was gallantly conducted towards its place, in order of battle, by Colonel Campbell, who being early wounded, was succeeded by Major M'Niel. Major Jessup commanded the 25th regiment, or the remaining battalion of the brigade. Of these three excellent officers, it would be difficult to say which was the most meritorious or most conspicuously engaged.†

Major Jessup was detached to the left to turn the enemy's right wing: he had a horse shot under him.

The other two battalions with an enlarged interval between

*Henry Leavenworth, Major 9th Infantry, Brevet Brig. Gen'l. died 1834.

†See General Scott's report of the battle of Chippeway.

them, received the enemy in open plain. That under Major Leavenworth paraded to the attack; that under Major M'Niel, with its left wing thrown forward to take the enemy in front and flank at the same time. Captain Towson, who commenced the fire before the troops were in order of battle, immediately after advanced to the front of the extreme right with three pieces of artillery, and took post on the river. Majors Leavenworth and M'Niel made prompt dispositions to receive the charge. The fire of the corps, including the artillery, produced a prodigious effect upon the enemy's ranks. That of Major M'Niel was the most effective from the oblique position which his corps judiciously occupied. The enemy's batteries were also admirably served; to the fire of which all our troops were exposed, and that of Major Leavenworth more particularly. The cannonade did not prevent the latter from preserving his corps in the most excellent order, at all times prepared to advance or to fire, to give or to receive the charge.

At the crisis of the action "Major Jessup, commanding the left flank battalion, finding himself pressed in front and in flank, and his men falling fast around him, ordered his battalion to "*Support arms and advance;*" the order was most promptly obeyed, amidst the most deadly and destructive fire. He gained a more secure position, and returned upon the enemy so galling a discharge as caused them to retire. At this critical juncture Captain Towson had silenced the enemy's most effective battery, by blowing up an ammunition wagon, which produced great confusion. Turning next a heavy discharge of canister upon their infantry, now nearly in contact with our line, advancing to charge; the enemy could not long sustain this accumulation of fire, they broke and fled to their strong works beyond the Chippeway; as soon as they reached the sloping ground, descending towards the Chippeway Creek, they broke in confusion and ran to gain the bridge. Our troops pressed upon the fugitives until checked by the guns discharged from the British works.

The American loss was 60 killed, 316 wounded, and 19 missing.—Total, 395.*

The British loss, according to their own statement, was 148 killed, 320 wounded, and 44 missing.—Total, 514.†

Five hundred British muskets were picked up the day after the action, upon the field of battle.

Major-General Riall had in his front line, 1,700 men, all regular troops, supported by the 8th regiment, 400 strong. The 100th regiment, which was on the left of the British line, commanded by the Marquis of Tweedale, late Aid-de-camp to Lord Wellington, brought into action 700, and paraded the next day but 264. The other regiments engaged suffered proportionably. General Brown has had in his possession the most unequivocal evidence of these facts.

General Porter's command was never engaged after their first retreat, consequently, the whole action was sustained by Scott's brigade, which, including Towson's artillery, consisted of but 1300 men fit for duty—150 were on the different guards and pickets,

*Among the wounded was Col. Campbell,¹ 11th Infantry, severely, knee fractured, since dead. Capt. King,² 22d Infantry, severely wounded in the abdomen. Capt. Read,³ 25th Infantry, badly, flesh wound in the thigh. Capt. Harrison,⁴ 42d Infantry, doing duty in the 9th regiment, severely, shot in the shoulder. Lieut. Barron⁵, 11th Infantry, severely, shot below the knee, and bone fractured. Lieut. DeWitt,⁶ 25th Infantry, severely. Lieut. Patching,⁷ badly, flesh wound in the thigh. Lieut. Brimhall⁸ slightly.

†In the morning we collected the wounded, and received orders to burn the dead. One of our Indians persisted in throwing one of the wounded Americans on the fire while living—one of our men shot him, and he was burned himself.

We were then ordered to Niagara, but before we marched General Drummond personally thanked us for our conduct in the fight—and the whole army was thanked in General Orders—viz. the Royals (1st) 8th, 49th, 89th and 103rd regiments of which the 89th suffered severely in this engagement.

(Shadrach Byfield, a soldier in the 41st regiment, in his *Narrative*, published as our EXTRA No. 12.)

1 John S. Campbell. 2 Sampson S. King. 3 Thomas M. Read. 4 Thomas Harrison. 5 John V. Barron, 1st Lieut. 6 Henry DeWitt, 1st Lieut. 7 Talcott Patching, 2d Lieut. 25th Infantry. (He rose from the ranks to a commission). 8 Elisha Brimhall, 1st Lieut. 9th Infantry.

and therefore not in the action; so that the American force actually engaged, did not exceed 1200 men.

To the immortal honour of our arms, therefore, it may be safely affirmed that 1200 Americans, many of them raw recruits, under the guidance of the intrepid Scott and equally gallant Leavenworth, M'Niel, Jessup, and Towson, defeated, in *fair field fight*, 1700 veteran British troops; consisting of the Royal Scots, the Prince Regent's and the King's Own, led on and encouraged by the heroick example of General Riall.

Among the officers noticed for bravery and good conduct by General Brown are General Ripley, from whom he received every assistance that he gave him an opportunity for rendering; General Porter, whose conduct was conspicuously gallant; his own family, consisting of Colonel Gardner,¹ Major Jones,² and his aids Austin³ and Spencer, who yield to none in honourable zeal, intelligence, and attention to duty—Captain Biddle of the artillery, who brought a wounded man from the field, who had been abandoned by Captain Treat⁴ Major Camp,⁵ Deputy Quarter-Master General, for great exertions in procuring means for crossing the Niagara, and Captain Deliza, of the Ordnance Department, who rendered every service in his power.

In the report of General Scott many additional officers are named: among these is Captain Ketchum,⁶ who was detached with his company to attack a much superiour force, and who gallantly sustained himself in the execution of his orders until relieved by Major Jessup, who marched to his support, Captain Harrison

1 Charles K. Gardner, Major 25th Infantry, Col. and Adj. Gen. Died 1869. Author of the system of designating companies as "A." "B." "C.", etc.

2 Roger Jones, Captain, Corps of Artillery and Brevet Major-General. Died 1852

3 Loring Austin, Captain 8th Infantry.

4 Joseph Treat, Captain 21st Infantry. He was dismissed from the Army, on the field of battle, by Gen. Brown but was restored by a court martial.

5 John G. Camp, Major 12th Infantry, Dep. Q. M. Gen'l.

6 Daniel Ketcham, Captain 25th Infantry.

was struck by a cannon ball which shattered and carried away a part of his leg; he nevertheless refused any assistance from the ranks until the enemy should be beaten. "To mention them in order of their rank," says the General, "Majors Jessup, Leavenworth, and M'Niel, and Captain Towson,⁷ deserve, in my humble opinion, every thing which conspicuous skill and gallantry can wish from a grateful country." Major Wood⁸ of the engineers, and Captain Harris⁹ of the dragoons could not be restrained from joining during the action; the latter had a horse shot under him. Captain Crooker¹⁰ particularly distinguished himself in a skirmish on the 4th. Major Hindman,¹¹ Captains Hull and Ritchie, Lieutenants Campbell,¹² Randolph¹³ and Smuck are also noticed for their bravery.

The victorious army remained four days near the battle ground and then took up its line of march for Queenstown. The enemy but feebly opposed the passage of the Chippeway. General Riall, with the British forces, fell back to the Twelve Mile Creek and threw a part of his troops into Fort George. The American army advanced to within three miles of the lake. General P. B. Porter reconnoitered the fort and offered battle to the enemy, who declined leaving their defences to risk the doubtful issue of a fight, when they were well informed that the main army under General Brown was at hand.

While the American army remained in the vicinity of Fort George, the enemy were actively engaged in concentrating their forces. The militia was called out *en masse* from Long Point to the bay of Quinte; in short the whole population of the Peninsula were in requisition. General Riall had been re-enforced with the garrison of Burlington Heights, 300 strong, and the Glengary light in-

7 Nathan Towson, Captain Second Artillery (afterwards brigadier-general) died 1854.

8 Eleazer D. Wood, Brevet Lieut. Col. Engineers.

9 Samuel D. Harris, Captain Light Dragoons.

10 Turner Crooker, Captain 9th Infantry.

11 Jacob Hindman, Major 2d Artillery.

12 Henry M. Campbell, Brevet 1st Lieut. Corps of Artillery.

13 Edward B. Randolph, 1st Lieut. 20th Infantry.

fantry from York, 400 strong. The whole regular force in the Peninsula at this period has been stated at from 10 to 15,000 men.

In a justificatory pamphlet published by a friend of General Ripley, it is said that General Scott was for investing Fort George; that General Ripley made a proposition to march on the night of the 14th of July with his brigade and Towson's and Biddle's artillery, to attack General Riall at revilee, (*sic*) so as to bring him to action; and for Generals Scott and Porter to be kept in supporting distance; and Colonel Hindman to bring up the park of artillery of reserve.

The reasons General Ripley assigned for this movement were "that if we moved against Fort George, we could not carry it. To think of storming it was out of the question; and to invest it would be perfectly absurd; for we had only our eighteen pounders to besiege a place where by dismantling Niagara, thirty heavy pieces could be brought to bear upon us. That if we invested Fort George we should waste a few days, which would give the enemy an opportunity to re-enforce from Kingston; and if this were allowed them, as we only had an effective force of twenty-six or twenty-seven hundred men, our movement must resolve itself into a retrograde one for our own security. But on the other hand, if we attack Riall and break him down before he could be re-enforced, the Peninsula was within our power. This proposition was supported by General Porter, Colonel M'Ree, and Colonel Wood. Colonel Hindman gave no opinion. Generals Brown and Scott, and Colonel Gardner, were opposed to it and in favour of investing Fort George. The movement was made on Fort George the 16th of July; and on the 23d, without even opening a single trench, the forces retrograded. They fell back to Chippeway the 24th; and on that evening. General Drummond arrived with three fresh battalions from Kingston; several battalions of militia were concentrated, and General Riall, with a force of about 3000 strong, moved forward his camp to Lundy's Lane."

In the reconnoissance of Fort George, General John Swift,* of the New-York volunteers, fell by the hand of a British soldier. The General, by judicious arrangements, succeeded with a party of volunteers in capturing without the discharge of a gun, a picket consisting of a corporal and five men, one of whom shot the General through the breast after they had surrendered.

The discharge of the gun aimed at the General drew a patrolling party of the enemy to the spot, fifty or sixty strong. But the General was not to be restrained by a mortal wound; he formed his men, and fell exhausted at the very moment he saw the enemy give way. He was borne to camp by his men.

General Swift had served seven years in the Revolutionary war. Every energy of his soul was consecrated to his country. His loss excited general regret.

The army remained two days before Fort George, and then retrograded to Queenstown. General Porter's command succeeded in taking several prisoners from the enemy's light troops who hovered about the Heights.

About this time Captain Stone, of the New-York volunteers, was dismissed the service by a peremptory order of General Brown, for an alleged disobedience of orders, in permitting or conniving at the burning of the village of St. Davids, by a part of his command. Captain Stone declared that he had no agency in the transaction—that his men put fire to the houses when he was not present.

On the 23d of July General Brown received information that the heavy guns which had been previously ordered from Sacket's Harbour, to be employed in the siege of Forts George and Niagara, were blockaded in that port, together with a rifle regiment that had been ordered up with them; and that no prospect then remained of their arriving. He retraced his steps to Chippeway and encamped near the battle ground of the 5th.

*John Swift, brother of Gen. Joseph G. Swift, the first graduate of West Point.

BATTLE OF THE CATARACT.

General Brown's Report of this Battle, to the Secretary of War.

SIR—Confined as I was and have been, since the last engagement with the enemy, I fear that the account I am about to give may be less full and satisfactory than under other circumstances it might have been made. I particularly fear that the conduct of the gallant men it was my good fortune to lead, will not be noticed in a way due to their fame and the honour of our country.

You are already apprized that the army had on the 25th ult. taken a position at Chippeway. About noon of that day Colonel Swift, who was posted at Lewiston, advised me by express that the enemy appeared in considerable force in Queenstown, and on its heights; and four of the enemy's fleet had arrived during the preceding night and were then lying near Fort Niagara, and that a number of boats were in view moving up the strait. Within a few minutes after this intelligence had been received I was farther informed by Captain Denman, of the Quarter Master's department, that the enemy was landing at Lewiston; and that our baggage and stores at Schlosser, and on their way thither, were in danger of immediate capture. It is proper here to mention, that having received advices as late as the 20th from General Gaines that our fleet was then in port, and the Commodore sick, we ceased to look for co-operation from that quarter, and determined to disencumber ourselves of baggage and march directly for Burlington Heights. To mask this intention and to draw from Schlosser a small supply of provisions, I fell back upon Chippeway. As this arrangement, under the increased force of the enemy, left much at hazard on our side of Niagara, and as it appeared by the before-stated information, that the enemy was about to avail himself of it, I conceived that the most effectual method of recalling him from this object was to put myself in motion towards Queenstown. General Scott, with the first brigade, Towson's artillery and all the

dragoons and mounted men, were accordingly put in march on the road leading thither, with orders to report if the enemy appeared and to call for assistance, if that was necessary. On the General's arrival at the Falls, he learned that the enemy was in force directly in front; a narrow piece of woods alone intercepting his view of them. Waiting only to give this information, he advanced upon them. By the time Assistant Adjutant General Jones had delivered his message, the action began; and before the remaining part of the division had crossed the Chippeway, it became close and general between the advanced corps. Though General Ripley with the 2d brigade, Major Hindman with the corps of artillery, and General Porter at the head of his command, had respectively pressed forward with ardour, it was not less than an hour before they were brought to sustain General Scott, during which time his command most skilfully and gallantly maintained the conflict. Upon my arrival I found that the General had passed the wood and engaged the enemy on the Queenstown road and on the ground to the left of it, with the 9th, 11th, and 22d regiments, and Towson's artillery. The 25th had been thrown to the right to be governed by circumstances. Apprehending that these corps were much exhausted, and knowing that they had suffered severely, I determined to interpose a new line with the advancing troops, and thus disengage General Scott and hold his brigade in reserve. Orders were accordingly given to General Ripley. The enemy's artillery at this moment occupied a hill, which gave him great advantages, and was the key of the whole position. It was supported by a line of infantry. To secure the victory it was necessary to carry this artillery, and seize the height. This duty was assigned to Colonel Miller, while to favour its execution, the 1st regiment under the command of Colonel Nicholas,* was directed to menace and amuse the infantry. To my great mortification this regiment, after a discharge or two, gave way and retreated some distance before it could be rallied, though it is believed the officers of the regiment ex-

*Robert Carter Nicholas, Lieut.-Col. 1st Rifles.

erted themselves to shorten this distance. In the meantime Colonel Miller,* without regard to this occurrence, advanced steadily and gallantly to his object and carried the height and the cannon. General Ripley brought up the 23d (which had also faltered) to his support, and the enemy disappeared from before them. The 1st regiment was now brought into line on the left of the 21st, and the detachments of the 17th and 19th, General Porter occupying, with his command, the extreme left. About this time Colonel Miller carried the enemy's cannon. The 25th regiment, under Major Jessup, was engaged in a more obstinate conflict with all that remained to dispute with us the field of battle. The Major, as has been already stated, had been ordered by General Scott, at the commencement of the action, to take ground to his right. He had succeeded in turning the enemy's left flank; had captured, by a detachment under Captain Ketchum, General Riall and sundry other officers, and showed himself again to his own army, in a blaze of fire which defeated or destroyed a very superior force of the enemy. He was ordered to form on the right of the 22d regiment. The enemy rallying his forces, and as is believed, having received re-enforcements, now attempted to drive us from our position and regain his artillery. Our line was unshaken, and the enemy were repulsed. Two other attempts having the same object had the same issue. General Scott was again engaged in repelling the former of these; and the last I saw of him on the field of battle, he was near the head of his column, and giving to its march a direction that would have placed him on the enemy's right. It was with great pleasure I saw the good order and intrepidity of General Porter's volunteers from the moment of their arrival; but during the last charge of the enemy, those qualities were conspicuous. Stimulated by the example set them by their gallant leader; by Major Wood, of the Pennsylvania corps; by Colonel Dobbin, of New-York, and by their officers generally, they precipitated themselves upon the enemy's line, and made all the prisoners which were taken at this point of the action.

*James Miller, Colonel 21st Infantry and Brevet Major-General.

Having been for some time wounded, and being a good deal exhausted by loss of blood, it became my wish to devolve the command on General Scott, and retire from the field; but on inquiry I had the misfortune to learn, that he was disabled by wounds: I therefore kept my post, and had the satisfaction to see the last effort repulsed. I now consigned the command to General Ripley.

While retiring from the field I saw, and felt that the victory was complete on our part, if proper measures were promptly adopted to secure it. The exhaustion of the men was, however, such as made some refreshment necessary. They particularly required water. I myself was extremely sensible of the want of this necessary article. I therefore believed it proper that General Ripley and the troops should return to camp, after bringing off the dead, the wounded, and the artillery; and in this I saw no difficulty, as the enemy had entirely ceased to act. Within an hour after my arrival in camp I was informed that General Ripley had returned without molestation, and in good order. I now sent for him, and after giving him my reasons for the measure I was about to adopt, ordered him to put the troops into the best possible condition; to give to them the necessary refreshments; to take with him the pickets and camp guards, and every other description of force; to put himself on the field of battle as the day dawned, and there to meet and beat the enemy, if he again appeared. To this order he made no objection, and I relied upon its execution. It was not executed. I feel most sensibly how inadequate are my powers in speaking of the troops, to do justice either to their merits, or to my own sense of them. Under abler direction, they might have done more, and better.

From the preceding detail, you have now evidence of the distinguished gallantry of Generals Scott and Porter, of Colonel Miller and Major Jessup.*

*Thomas S. Jesup, Major 25th Infantry, Brevet Major-Gen. Died 1860.

Of the 1st brigade, the Chief, with his Aide-de-Camp Worth, his Major of brigade, Smith, and every commander of battalion, were wounded.

The 2d brigade suffered less; but as a brigade, their conduct entitles them to the applause of their country. After the enemy's strong position had been carried by the 21st, and the detachments of the 17th and 19th, the 1st and 25th assumed a new character, they could not again be shaken or dismayed. Major M'Farland, of the latter, fell nobly at the head of his battalion.

Under the command of General Porter, the militia volunteers of Pennsylvania and New-York stood undismayed amidst the hottest fire, and repulsed the veterans opposed to them. The Canadian volunteers, commanded by Colonel Wilson, are reported by General Porter as having merited and received his approbation.

The corps of artillery, commanded by Major Hindman, behaved with its usual gallantry. Captain Towson's company, attached to the 1st brigade, was the first and last engaged, and during the whole conflict maintained that high character which they had previously won by their skill and their valour. Captains Biddle and Ritchie were both wounded early in the action, but refused to quit the field. The latter declared that he never would leave his piece; and true to his engagement, fell by its side, covered with wounds.

The staff of the army had its peculiar merit and distinction. Colonel Gardner, Adjutant-General, though ill, was on horseback, and did all in his power; his assistant, Major Jones, was very active and useful. My gallant Aids-de-Camp, Austin and Spencer, had many and critical duties to perform, in the discharge of which the latter fell; I shall ever think of this young man with pride and regret; regret that his career has been so short; pride, that he has been so noble and distinguished. The Engineers, Majors M'Ree* and

*William McRee, Colonel of Engineers. Died 1833. Fort Mc Ree, Pensacola, is named for him.

Wood, were greatly distinguished on this day, and their high military talents exerted with great effect; they were much under my eye, and near my person and to their assistance a great deal is fairly to be ascribed. I most earnestly recommend them, as worthy of the highest trust and confidence. The Staff of Generals Ripley and Porter, discovered great zeal and attention to duty. Lieutenant E. B. Randolph, of the 20th regiment, is entitled to notice, his courage was conspicuous.

I enclose a return of our loss; those noted as missing may generally be numbered with the dead. The enemy had but little opportunity of making prisoners.

I have the honour to be, sir, &c. &c.,

JACOB BROWN.

Hon. J. Armstrong, Secretary at War.

Report of the killed, wounded and missing, of the Left Division of the army, commanded by Major-General BROWN, in the action of the afternoon and night of the 25th July, 1814, at the Falls of Niagara.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT ERIE, July 30, 1814.

General Staff—wounded, 1 Major-General, 1 Aid-de-Camp.

Light Dragoons—killed, 1 corporal; wounded, two privates.

Artillery—killed, 1 Captain, 1 Corporal, 8 privates; wounded, 1 Captain, 2 subalterns, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, 1 musician, 29 privates; missing, 1 private.

First, or Brig. Gen. Scott's Brigade.

Brigade Staff—wounded, 1 Brigadier-General, 1 Aid-de-Camp, 1 Brigade Major.

Ninth Infantry—killed, 1 Captain, 2 subalterns, 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, 11 privates; wounded, 1 Major, 1 Quarter-Master,

1 Paymaster, 1 Captain, 5 subalterns, 7 Sergeants, 5 Corporals, 69 privates; missing, 1 subaltern, 1 Sergeant Major, 2 Sergeants, 11 privates.

Eleventh Infantry—killed, 1 Captain, 2 Sergeants, 4 Corporals, 2 privates; wounded, 1 Major, 1 Captain, 5 subalterns, 1 Sergeant-Major, 1 chief musician, 7 Sergeants, 3 Corporals, 1 musician, 83 privates; missing, 1 subaltern, 2 privates.

Twenty-second Infantry—killed, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 33 privates; wounded, 1 Colonel, 2 Captains, 4 subalterns, 9 Sergeants, 11 Corporals, 1 musician, 62 privates; missing 3 subalterns, 2 Sergeants, 12 privates.

Twenty-fifth Infantry—killed, 1 Captain, 1 subaltern, 26 privates; wounded, 1 Major, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quarter-Master, 1 subaltern, 6 Sergeants, 6 Corporals, 50 privates; missing, 1 Sergeant, 2 Corporals, 19 privates.

Second, or Brig. Gen. Ripley's Brigade.

First Infantry—killed, 11 privates; wounded, 2 subalterns, 18 privates; missing, 1 Corporal, 1 private.

21st Infantry—killed, 1 subaltern, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 11 privates; wounded, 1 Captain, 5 subalterns, 1 Sergeant, 53 privates; missing, 19 privates.

23d Infantry—killed, 1 Major, 2 Sergeants, 7 privates; wounded, 1 Captain, 6 subalterns, 1 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 43 privates; missing, 3 Sergeants, 2 Corporals, 22 privates.

Brig. Gen. Porter's Command.

Brigade Staff—1 Brigade Major missing.

Canadian Volunteers—killed, 2 privates; wounded, 2 privates; missing 8 privates.

Pennsylvania Volunteers—killed, 1 Adjutant, 1 Sergeant, 9 privates; wounded, 1 Major, 1 Quarter-Master, 1 subaltern, 21 privates; missing, 1 Captain.

New-York Volunteers—killed, 1 Captain, 1 Corporal, 2 pri-

vates; wounded, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 1 subaltern, 2 Sergeants, 1 Corporal, 9 privates; missing, 1 subaltern.

Grand Total—Killed, 1 Major, 1 Adjutant, 5 Captains, 4 subalterns, 10 Sergeants, 10 Corporals, 140 privates—Total, 171.

Wounded, 1 Major-General, 1 Brigadier-General, 2 Aids-de-Camp, 1 Brigade Major, 1 Colonel, 1 Lieut. Colonel, 4 Majors, 1 Adjutant, 3 Quarter-Masters, 1 Paymaster, 7 Captains, 32 subalterns, 1 Sergeant-Major, 1 Chief Musician, 34 Sergeants, 29 Corporals, 3 musicians, 449 privates—Total, 572.

Missing, 1 Brigade Major, 1 Captain, 6 subalterns, 1 Sergeant-Major, 8 Sergeants, 5 Corporals, 95 privates—Total, 117.

C. K. GARDNER, Adjutant-General.

Officers Killed.—Major M'Farland,¹ 23d infantry. Captain Ritchie,² corps of artillery. Captain Hull,³ 9th infantry. Captain Kinney,⁴ 25th do. Captain Goodrich,⁵ 11th do. First Lieutenant Bigelow,⁶ 21st do. First Lieutenant Turner,⁷ 9th do. Second Lieutenant Burhardt,⁸ 9th do. Ensign Hunter,⁹ 25th do. Captain Hooper, New-York volunteers. Adjutant Poe,¹⁰ Pennsylvania volunteers.

Officers Wounded.—Major-General Brown, severely wounded through the thigh and in the side.

Captain Spencer,¹¹ Aid to the Major-General, through the body, supposed to be mortal.

1. Daniel Mc Farland, Major 23d (not 25th) Infantry.
2. John Ritchie, Captain 2d Artillery.
3. Abraham F. Hull, (son of Gen. William Hull of the Revo. Army) Captain 9th Infantry.
4. Joseph Kinney, Captain 25th Infantry.
5. Valentine R. Goodrich, Captain 11th Infantry.
6. Aaron Bigelow, 1st Lieut. 21st Infantry.
7. Stephen Turner, 1st Lieut. 9th Infantry.
8. Adolphus Burhardt, 2d Lieut. 9th Infantry.
9. William C. Hunter, Ensign 25th Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission.
10. Adjutant Thomas Poe, Pa. Vol. (killed).
11. Ambrose Spencer, Jr., Captain 29th Infantry.

Artillery, Captain Biddle,¹¹ slightly, shot wound in the neck and arm.

Second Lieutenant Campbell, badly, shot through the leg.
Second Lieutenant Schmuck,¹² severely.

First Brigade.

Brigadier-General Scott, severely, shoulder fractured and wounded in the side.

Lieutenant J. D. Smith,¹³ 6th infantry, Brigade Major, badly, through the leg.

Lieutenant Worth, 23d infantry, Aid-de-Camp, severely, grape shot in the thigh.

Ninth infantry, Major Leavenworth, slightly, contusion in the side.

Captain W. L. Foster,¹⁴ slightly in the shoulder.

Lieutenant and Paymaster Fowle,¹⁵ slightly in the foot.

Lieutenant and Quarter-Master Browning,¹⁶ slightly, in the face.

Second Lieutenant Fisher,¹⁷ severely, shot in the head and wrist.

Third Lieutenant Cushman,¹⁸ slightly, in the thigh and shoulder.

Ensign G. Jacobs,¹⁹ severely, shot in the knee.

Ensign J. P. Jacobs,²⁰ slightly, in the shoulder.

Ensign Blake,²¹ slightly, in the knee.

11. Thomas Biddle 2d Artillery. He was killed in a duel in 1831.

12. Jacob Schmuck, 1st Lieut. Corps of Artillerists. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

13. J. D. Smith, Lieut. 6th Infantry

14. William L. Foster, Captain 9th Infantry.

15. John L. Fowle, Lieut. 9th Infantry

16. William Browning, Captain 9th Infantry.

17. Otis Fisher, 1st Lieut. 9th Infantry.

18. Caleb Cushman, 2d Lieut. 9th Infantry.

He rose from the ranks to a commission.

19. George W. Jacobs, Ensign 9th Infantry.

He rose from the ranks to a commission.

20. Joseph K. Jacobs, Ensign 9th Infantry.

He rose from the ranks to a commission.

21. Chesley Blake, Ensign 9th Infantry.

He rose from the ranks to a commission.



Eleventh infantry, Major M'Neil,²² severely, canister shot in the knee.

Captain Briss,²³ badly, shot in the leg.

First Lieutenant Hall, slightly, shot in the thigh.

Second Lieutenant Cooper,²⁴ slightly, contusion in the breast.

Third Lieutenant Stephenson,²⁵ slightly, in the thigh.

Ensign Bedford,²⁶ slightly, hurt in the abdomen by a splinter.

Ensign Thompson,²⁷ (26th, doing duty in the 11th,) severely, shot wound in the side.

Twenty-second infantry, Colonel Brady,²⁸ severely, shot wound in the side and hip.

Captain Pentland,²⁹ severely wounded and a prisoner.

Captain Foulk,³⁰ severely, shot wound in the side.

First Lieutenant Culbertson,³¹ severely, shot wound in the leg.

First Lieutenant Ferguson,³² severely, shot in the hand from a canister.

Second Lieutenant Armstrong,³³ dangerously, shot wound in the shoulder.

Third Lieutenant Bean,³⁴ slightly, shot in the foot.

Twenty-fifth infantry, Major Jessup, severely, shot wounds in the hand and shoulder.

22. John Mc Neil, Major 11th Infantry.

23. John Bliss, Captain 11th Infantry. He became Lieut. Col. of the 6th Infantry and died in 1854.

24. Enoch Cooper, 2d. Lieut. 11th Infantry.

25. Benjamin Stephenson, 3rd. Lieut. 11th Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

26. Elias Bedford, Ensign 11th Infantry.

27. Festus L. Thompson, Ensign 26th Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

28. Hugh Brady, Colonel 22d. Infantry, and Brevet Major-General. Died 1851. At eighty he served in the Mexican War. Fort Brady, Michigan is named for him. He was fifty-nine years in the army.

29. John Pentland, Captain 22d. Infantry.

30. Willis Foulk, Captain 22d. Infantry.

31. John Culbertson, 1st. Lieut. 22d. Infantry.

32. George W. Ferguson, 1st. Lieut. 22d. Infantry.

33. John Armstrong, 2d. Lieut. 22d. Infantry. He died from his wounds.

34. Robert Beans, 3d. Lieut. 22d. Infantry.

Lieutenant and Adjutant Shaylor,³⁵ severely, shot wounds in the arm and side.

Lieutenant and Quarter-Master M'Glassin,³⁶ badly, shot wound in the shoulder.

Third Lieutenant Glafford, severely, shot wound in the hip.

Second Brigade.

First infantry, 1st Lieutenant Vasquez,³⁷ slightly, shot in the thigh, and bayoneted in the leg.

First Lieutenant Bissel,³⁸ slightly, in the leg.

Twenty-first infantry, Captain Burbank,³⁹ severely, shoulder fractured.

First Lieutenant Cilley,⁴⁰ severely, thigh fractured.

Second Lieutenant Fiske,⁴¹ of the 19th attached, slightly, in the breast.

Ensign Jones,⁴² slightly, flesh wound in the wrist.

Ensign Camp,⁴³ 2d rifle regiment, serving with the regiment attached, flesh wound in the ankle.

35. Ephraim Shaylor, Lieut. and Adjutant, 25th. Infantry.

36. George Mc Glassin, Lieut. and Q. M. 25th. Infantry.

37. Barony Vasquez, 1st. Lieut. 1st. Infantry.

38. Lewis Bissell, 1st. Lieut. Infantry.

39. Sullivan Burbank, Captain 21st. Infantry.

40. Joseph Cilley, 1st. Lieut., 21st. Infantry. Died 1887.

His grandfather, Joseph Cilley (1735-1799) was a Revolutionary soldier, serving from 1775 to 1783. He was appointed to the 11th Infantry in 1812 and promoted to lieutenant in 1814.

In the battle here described he was wounded, and every other officer in his company was killed or wounded. He was brevetted captain for gallantry on the field. He resigned from the army in 1816. In 1846 he was elected to the U. S. Senate, and died at his birth-place, Nottingham, N. H., (where his great-grandfather, Captain Joseph, had settled in 1727) in 1887, seventy-three years after his experience at Lundy's Lane. His brother Jonathan was the victim in the Graves-Cilley duel of 1838. His two nephews, Greenleaf and Jonathan P., attained distinction during the Rebellion, in the Navy and Army respectively and Col. John K., another of the family and War veteran, died in New York, 1917.

41. Abram J. Fisk, 2d. Lieut., 19th. Infantry.

42. Levin Jones, Ensign 21st. Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

43. William G. Camp, Ensign 2d. Rifles. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

Ensign Thomas,⁴⁴ slightly, contusion in the back.

Twenty-third infantry, Captain Odell,⁴⁵ severely, shot wound in the arm.

First Lieutenant H. Whiting,⁴⁶ severely, in the neck.

Second Lieutenant Ingersoll,⁴⁷ slightly, in the foot.

Second Lieutenant Tappan,⁴⁸ slightly, in the head.

Third Lieutenant Abeal,⁴⁹ slightly, in the leg.

Third Lieutenant Deidreich,⁵⁰ slightly, in the arm.

Third Lieutenant Lamb,⁵¹ severely, in the leg.

Brig. Gen. Porter's Command.

New-York volunteers, Lieutenant Colonel Dobbin, slightly, shot in the breast.

Lieutenant O'Fling, slightly, spent common shot in the shoulder.

Pennsylvania volunteers, Major Wood,⁵² severely, musket shots in the arm and foot, and bruised by his horse being shot and falling on him.

Quarter-Master Maclay,⁵³ severely, musket shots in the head and twice through the leg.

Lieutenant Dick,⁵⁴ severely, shot in the hand.

Brigadier-General Porter was slightly wounded, but declined being reported.

44. Jeremiah Thomas, Ensign 21st. Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

45. Azariah Odell, Captain 23d. Infantry.

46. Henry Whiting, Captain 23d. Infantry.

47. Justus Ingersoll, 1st. Lieut. 23d. Infantry.

48. Samuel Tappan, 2d. Lieut. 23d. Infantry.

49. James S. Abeel, 3d. Lieut. 23d. Infantry. Captain and Ordnance storekeeper 1866. Retired in 1869—died in 1870—was 57 years in the Army.

50. John P. Dieterich, 3rd. Lieut., 23d. Infantry.

51. Dudley Lamb, 3d. Lieut., 23rd., Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission.

52. James Wood. Major Pa. Vols. wounded.

53. Quartermaster John McClay, Penn. Vols. wounded.

54. Lieut.—Dick, Pa. Vols. wounded.

Officers Missing.

First Lieutenant Perry,⁵⁵ 9th infantry, a prisoner.

Third Lieutenant Webster,⁵⁷ 11th do. severely, shot in the head, and taken prisoner.

Lieutenants Sturgis,⁵⁷ Keps, and Davidson,⁵⁸ 22d infantry, supposed to be killed.

Volunteers, Brigadier Major Stanton, of New-York, taken prisoner.

Captain Roberts,⁵⁹ of Pennsylvania, taken prisoner.

Lieutenant Hunt, of New-York, supposed to be killed.

No battle of the war, perhaps none in the annals of the world can compare with this in the horror and awful grandeur of its character. If the great battles of Austerlitz, Jean,* and Mount St. Jean surpass that of the Cataract in the number of the combatants and of the slain, it must be recollected that those actions were fought in open day, and by armies forming a line of many leagues extent—that in no instance did the defeated party return three several times to the charge, over the dead bodies of their companions; and this in the gloom of night.

Here the conflicting armies closed at the moment the light of day was yielding to the empire of darkness, which gave an indescribable effect to the blaze of the guns and terrors of the fight. In no other action ever recorded was the loss in killed and wounded so great, in proportion to the number engaged. Nearly two thirds of the American troops were either killed or wounded. Almost every officer of distinction was wounded. An equal, probably a greater loss, fell on the enemy. What a scene of carnage must the

55. David Perry. 1st. Lieut. 9th. Infantry.

56. Humphrey Webster, 3rd. Lieut. 11th. Infantry. He rose from the ranks to a commission,

57. William Sturgis, 1st. Lieut. 22d. Infantry. He was killed.

58. Robert M. Davidson, 2d. Lieut. 22d. Infantry. He was killed.

59. Captain John Roberts, 5th Detachment Penn. Militia, Prisoner.

*Jena

battle ground have presented! No parallel can be found in history where both parties fought with such determined bravery, and suffered such a horrible loss. Of more than 2000 Americans who went into battle, not more than 700 escaped unhurt. The superior numbers of the enemy enabled them to renew the attack until our troops were diminished to about one third of their original number. Yet, like a wall of granite they remained immovable amid repeated shocks and surrounding horrors, with their feet inundated with the blood of their enemies, they waded in gore to victory. In the intervals of the charges, darkness veiled the appalling spectacle, but their ears were stunned with the cries of the wounded and dying, while the tremendous force of the cataract shook the astonished earth beneath their feet; for it is here that Nature appears in all the majesty of her power. Never was human firmness put to so severe a trial. Where is the cold-hearted ingrate that can withhold his admiration from such intrepid defenders! Can the Republic tarnish her glory by forgetting the services of the heroes of Niagara?

The official censure of General Ripley's conduct in not renewing the action on the morning of the 26th of July, which appears in General Brown's statement of the battle, has drawn from the officers* friendly to the reputation of General Ripley, a voluminous series of letters and statements, in which they not only exonerate him in the most pointed manner from all blame in the transaction, but ascribe to his prudent foresight, bravery, and consummate military skill the salvation of the wreck of the army put in jeopardy of total annihilation by the temerity of General Scott and the injudicious dispositions of General Brown!

In armies, as in courts and politicks, there will be courtiers

Among the long list of officers who have come forward in defence of General Ripley's military character, we observe the names of General Miller, Colonels Leavenworth and Hindman, Majors Noon, Foster, Browning, Burbank, Marston, Odell and Romayne, Captains Clark, Perry, M'Donald &c.

*(Darby Noon, Major 41st. Infantry. Morrill Marston, Captain 5th. Infantry. William McDonald, Captain 19th. Infantry. James T. B. Romayne, Captain Corps of Artillerists.)

and factions; and brave men may be allowed to be jealous of military glory, obtained by privations, fatigue, and an almost constant exposure of life. The best officers may for once endanger the success of a battle by a premature movement and an erroneous impression as to the force or intention of his enemy. Caesar was not always victorious. The great Napoleon was fairly foiled in his attempts upon St. Jean d'Acre; and but for the opportune arrival of the immortal Des Suix,* he would have lost the battle of Marengo. Bulow saved Blucher and Wellington at Waterloo. A single ball sometimes decides the fate of battles, by prostrating the leader of a charge, the success of which would have determined the victory.

No battle perhaps in the annals of the world was more obstinately contested, or attended with greater or more frightful carnage according to the number engaged. The scales of victory for many hours were doubtfully suspended; sometimes vibrating on one side and sometimes on the other; alternately promising and threatening to either party the glory of triumph or the disgrace of defeat, until at length the God of battles and the divinity of fortune crowned our arms with glorious success. The American soldiers, flushed with the pride of recent triumphs over the boasted conquerors of Europe and animated with the spirit of liberty and a love of glory peculiar to freemen, distinguished themselves by daring achievements, worthy the heroes of a Grecian band or a Roman legion in the proudest days of those republicks. They showed to tyrants and to the world how unavailing is the most perfect order of slavish discipline, opposed to the resistless impetuosity of republican valour. They may venture to assert without the imputation of vanity or weakness, that the heights of Bridgewater, and the plains of Chippeway, will remain to the latest posterity as lasting monuments of human greatness and human glory, as those of Thermopylae and Marathon. Commanders in after ages of our republick will refer to them for the most brilliant examples of patriotick devotion and heroic achievement, to rekindle the expiring flames of independence,

*Dessaix.

liberty, and glory in the bosoms of their degenerate and disanimated legions. Their bare recital will relume the dying fire of patriotism and valour in their languid souls, and prompt them to a glorious and successful emulation of their fathers.

The number and situation of the enemy was not precisely known upon the day of the engagement, though it afterwards appeared that he was about 4000 strong and had advanced to the heights of Queenstown. The number of our respective corps was as follows:

The first brigade, under General Scott, consisted of about 700 effective men; and the second brigade, under General Ripley, amounted to about the same number. The volunteers, under General Porter, did not exceed 500 capable of duty. The number of artillerists and dragoons is not precisely ascertained; they probably amounted to 200 fit for service; making in the whole, a force of 2500 men, rank and file.

Upon the 25th, about 6 o'clock, P. M., General Scott, with the first brigade, marched from camp on the high road to Fort George, without sending in advance any reconnoitering party of light troops to ascertain the position, number, or approach of the enemy, to guard against a surprise or to facilitate a retreat to the main body of the army, if occasion should require. Whether he moved from the order of the Commander, or his own inclination, with an expectation of battle or for parade and drill, was unknown to camp at that time. If he went out to give the enemy battle agreeably to orders, why was not our whole disposable force directed to accompany or follow him? If the enterprise was only for ostentation, why was he permitted to jeopardize his gallant band and the whole army, exposing himself to be surprised and attacked alone so far from camp by the whole British army? These are things yet involved in impenetrable mystery, which time, the retrospective and prospective expounder of events, only

can reveal. If the Commander-in-Chief ordered the movement of General Scott, he must be deservedly suspected of military incapacity; if he only permitted it, he must be justly considered guilty of notorious imprudence. If General Scott made the movement without orders, he is justly chargeable with rashness or folly, which we shall see in the progress of events would inevitably have destroyed the whole army, and blasted the glories of the day, if they had not been fortunately retrieved by the superior ability, skill, enterprise and valour of General Ripley. When General Scott had proceeded about two miles from camp he was attacked by the whole British forces, by a discharge of musketry from their whole line. Upon this signal our camp was alarmed, and General Ripley ordered his brigade to be formed. In the meantime the thunder of artillery announced the reality, fury and inequality of the contest, and excited in every bosom the most painful apprehensions for the fate of the first brigade, before we could arrive to support them. Orders were soon received from General Brown, through Captain Spencer, his Aid, for the second brigade to repair to the scene of action for the relief of General Scott's corps, whose ranks were now frightfully thinned and reluctantly recoiling from the unequal contest. General Ripley instantly obeyed the order by directing us to march; and when we had proceeded to within half a mile of the field of battle, he was ordered to form his brigade in line near the skirts of a wood to the right of General Scott's, and advance upon the enemy. But from the difficulty, if not impracticability of proceeding in line through the woods, he resolved to advance within reach of the foe before he formed. Although this was taking upon himself a high responsibility, yet the order was so absurd that he dared to disobey; and the success attending his after movements seems clearly to justify the measure. Though a scrupulous obedience to the orders of superiors in an army is generally a sacred duty and a sure pledge of victory, yet the incompetency or mistake of a commander may sometimes allow and require a partial defection from them. It would have been admis-

sible, and even meritorious for the officers of General Hull, at the capture and surrender of Detroit; and seems tolerable, and even laudable for General Ripley on this occasion.

In performing the proposed movement of General Ripley, we suffered great annoyance and sustained considerable loss from the constant and destructive fire of the enemy's battery, which was chiefly directed at General Scott's mutilated and almost exhausted corps, which we were about passing to form in line upon their left.

The enemy's artillery was placed upon an eminence, and from its destructive effect upon our advancing columns, the General was sensible unless they were taken, we should be compelled to retire or to be overpowered. He accordingly asked Colonel Miller if he could storm and take them. The intrepid though modest hero replied, "I can try;" an answer truly worthy a Leonidas and a Miltiades, and shows the striking difference between real magnanimity and empty daring.

At this time General Scott's corps was about a quarter of a mile in the rear, having ceased firing; the volunteer corps under the command of General Porter, was not yet marshalled in the field; and our artillerists and dragoons were not then nor afterwards advantageously engaged in the action, on account of the peculiar situation of the contending armies.

Agreeably to the orders of General Ripley, Colonel Miller formed his regiment directly in front of the batteries, and with a quick step advanced to storm and take them, under a tremendous fire which supplied the light of day and produced most frightful chasms along his line; yet it did not in the least repel, disorder, or check the rapid and steady march of the assailants; like the Gallick chief and his brave companions at the bridge of Lodi, or the Spartan chief and his chosen band at the straits of Thermopylae, they had resolved to conquer or to die. In the meantime the 23d regiment was ordered to move in column to the left, for the purpose of annoying the enemy in flank. In the execution of this or-

der they were partially repulsed by a discharge of musketry from the enemy's right wing; but they were soon rallied by their General in person, and proceeded to attack the enemy as first directed. By this time the gallant Miller had taken the enemy's batteries, consisting of nine pieces of cannon, and after a stubborn and bloody contest had forced him to abandon his position. The two lines were not more than twenty yards distant from each other, during the transaction. The darkness of night was by turns dispelled, and the light of day resumed, by the incessant and tremendous fire of the contending armies. During these operations of the 21st regiment, the 23d was attacking the enemy's right wing, and compelled it to fall back with the centre. Previous to the success of the 23d, the 21st was almost overpowered by superior numbers; but at this trying crisis was seasonably and happily relieved by the arrival of the 22d, and the enemy was completely driven from the heights. Soon after, the three regiments were formed in line forward of the captured batteries, together with 200 men of the first regiment, waiting with impatience another charge of the enemy. A considerable interval succeeded, in which General Ripley and General Brown met and conferred together some time. The former requested the latter to give orders and provide means to remove the captured cannon from the field, which seemed to be the principal object of contention, and which we shall see in the course of events, induced several desperate charges of the enemy to retake them. Time and means were then in our power, and should have been improved. The superfluous horses of our artillery, and all our volunteer corps might have been employed for the purpose. The first were never engaged in the action, and the last only at the close of the engagement. General Brown however, disregarded the request at this time, and soon after destroyed the means by ordering the artillery horses to camp. And those trophies, so dearly won and expensively defended, finally fell into the hands of the enemy when we returned to our encampment. The exhausted men could not drag them; and if they could, they had no ropes for

for the purpose. However painful or invidious the task may be of canvassing the conduct of illustrious men in civil or military life, it becomes our duty in recording their actions, for the instruction and advantage of the world, impartially to state their capacity and incapacity, their virtues and their faults. It serves, like a beacon to the mariner, for future statesman and commanders to avoid the rocks and quicksands to which they are exposed. Therefore we cannot avoid the expression of our opinion that General Brown, in this affair, is chargeable with an unpardonable improvidence, if not with criminal neglect; and that General Ripley, so often but mistakenly blamed in the business, should be acquitted of remissness or imprudence. After this interview and conference of the two Generals concerning the removal of the captured artillery the battle was soon renewed. The 25th regiment of the first brigade, under the command of the able and gallant Colonel Jessup, joined the second brigade, and was formed on the right to flank and annoy the enemy in his after attacks; which disposition was attended with the most brilliant success. They not only distressingly annoyed the enemy, but succeeded in capturing Major General Riall and a greater number of other officers and men than was taken during the whole conflict.

The peculiar honour of capturing General Riall is due to Captain Ketchum, which justly entitles him to the attention of his government, and will inevitably procure him the just confidence and grateful plaudits of his country.

While the line was thus formed upon the eminence, the enemy advanced and made a most violent charge upon our whole force. General Ripley ordered our men to reserve their fire until the enemy approached within reach of our bayonets, and firstly to receive their fire. The advantage of distance and light afforded to take aim, rendered our volleys more certain and tremendously destructive; while the enemy, from the lowness of his position in ascending the heights from which he had been driven, and the darkness of his

view, generally fired over our heads. The order of the General was promptly obeyed, and with the most desired success; for after a few discharges in this way the enemy was again routed and compelled to retire. An interval of half an hour ensued, when the enemy again advanced and impetuously attacked our whole line, now extended by General Porter's corps of volunteers upon the left, and three battalions of General Scott's brigade upon the right. The contest was now longer, more stubborn, and attended with greater carnage; but by observing the precautions adopted in the last charge, it terminated in the entire discomfiture and retreat of the enemy. Our right and left were partially repulsed, but they were rallied before the engagement ended. A cessation for three-quarters of an hour now followed before a renewal of the contest, which, like a conflagration quenched for a while by scanty showers of water, soon re-kindled with more appalling and destructive fury, ruthlessly consuming what its violence had spared.


During this interval ancient night resumed her fearful empire and spread her shroud of gloom over the horrors of the carnage-covered field, still trembling with the convulsions of the conflict. The terrific silence that prevailed was only interrupted by the agonizing groans of the dying, and the tremendous sound of Niagara's caratact, stilled for a while by the deadly cannon's more awful roar. The intermitted beams of the pale-faced moon and affrighted stars from behind their passing clouds, by turns exposed to view the frightful desolation of the scene, crimsoned with the blood and strewed with the mangled bodies of the dead. At length the martial clangour and exulting shouts of the advancing hosts proclaimed the renewal of the doubtful and long contested fight; which after several impetuous charges and repulses, terminated in the complete discomfiture of the enemy, and a decisive triumph of our arms. After remaining undisputed masters of the field for some time, General Ripley retired to camp with all his forces, in pursuance of the orders of the Commander-in-Chief, in perfect order, unpursued or unmolested by the enemy.

BATTLE OF BLADENSBURGH, AND FALL OF
WASHINGTON CITY.

THE British divided their forces of shipping and men; the greater part ascended the Patuxent as high as Benedict village, preceded by the American flotilla; the residue ascended the Potomack; the main force of the enemy, led on by General Ross, advanced to Upper Marlborough. On the 22d August, Commodore Barney blew up his flotilla to prevent its falling into the hands of the enemy, and joined the American army under the command of General Winder. The enemy were now left to proceed in an uninterrupted march, the distance of about sixty miles along a road that might have been flanked, and their troops harassed and defeated without a general engagement, by two regiments of well officered men. Thus they arrived at Bladensburgh without molestation, where the American army was drawn up to receive them. It was principally composed of militia and volunteers without much discipline, and who had not the least confidence in their officers, from the circumstances of their long march through the richest country in the United States without food; and when arrived, were served with dry wheat flour, which was mixed in muddy water and baked on fence rails, camp kettles, or in the fire. This circumstance, together with that of the uninterrupted march of the British, gave rise to a suspicion of treachery, which suspicion seemed generally to rest on Armstrong, the then Secretary of War. In this situation of things the British arrived at Bladensburgh; the fire of their infantry, preceded by a storm of Congreve rockets, caused the American line to falter; and the left, under General Stansberry, gave way on about the third, and the right, on the fifth fire; the British then commenced outflanking the centre, who of course were compelled to retreat, which they did in tolerable order, and formed on the right of Commodore Barney's flotillamen; the Commodore¹ had formed across the road leading directly from Bladens-

1. Commodore Joshua Barney, (1759-1818). The ball which wounded him in the thigh, at Bladensburg, was never extracted, and caused great suffering all his life.

burgh to Washington city; here the enemy met with their principal resistance, and were swept down several times by whole columns rank and file. They then commenced outflanking on the right, which compelled the Commodore to retreat, which he did four diff-

 Those who refuse their patronage, will please not soil the copy.

WILL BE CALLED FOR.

THE 4 BATTLES

GENTLEMEN—In the late War it was my misfortune to be wounded in two of the above mentioned battles, and lately to lose every thing I possessed by fire. The copperplate engraving in the Book cost \$100. The plates and book both stand me in 17 1-2 cents—a fair price for both is 25 cents: give for it whatever your feelings dictate. If there is any virtue in public services, wounds and sufferings, I shall hope this little work will not be returned to me, and that I shall receive your approbation and patronage.

P. M. DAVIS.

Reference of character and circumstances:—D. B. Shepard, Commissioner of Deeds for New-York; A. Vanordin, Merchant; J. Cherry, do.; W. Walters, J. D. Braynard; T. Robinson, First Judge of Broome county. Other references can be shown from the Baptist Society, and Officers of the United States Army.

requisition, 2,000 effectives from the State of Virginia, 5,000 from Pennsylvania, 6,000 from Maryland, and 2,000 from the District

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burgh to Washington city; here the enemy met with their principal resistance, and were swept down several times by whole columns rank and file. They then commenced outflanking on the right, which compelled the Commodore to retreat, which he did four different times, and formed in good order, as if determined to dispute every inch of ground, until he had five horses killed under him, and received three wounds, when he ordered his men to make a final retreat. He fell into the hands of the enemy who, contrary to their usual custom, treated him well, giving him a parole and ordered him to be carried into Bladensburgh on a litter, leaving two of their surgeons to attend him. They pushed on for the city, which in a short time was in flames; the capitol, President's house, the printing office, one of the former residences of Mrs. Washington, and all the other publick buildings, except the general Post-Office.)

"This is my statement; and being in the action and twice wounded in near the close of it, I think I had an opportunity of observing the different circumstances attending this disastrous day.)

Previous to the 2d of July, this district formed a part of military district No. 5. Early in June the Cabinet assembled for purposes extraneous to the defence of the district. A plan was however suggested by the Secretary of the Navy relative to its defence, which was adopted. The effective force of district No. 5. was, on the 7th June, 2154 effective, stationed at various points. On the 1st July a Cabinet council was again convened by the President, from a variety of considerations, and a plan of defence proposed by him, which was adopted. (On the 2d July the 10th military district was created, and General Winder² appointed to command it. On the 4th of July a requisition of 93,500 men was made. Of this requisition, 2,000 effectives from the State of Virginia, 5,000 from Pennsylvania, 6,000 from Maryland, and 2,000 from the District

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of Columbia, were put at the disposal of General Winder; making a total of 15,000 men, exclusive of the regular force, estimated at 1,000 more. The committee states that the Secretary of War, on the 12th July enclosed to General Winder a circular addressed to the Governors of certain States, requiring a body of militia to be organized, equipped, and held in readiness for future service, and authorizes him to call for a part or a whole of the quota assigned to Maryland; and on the 17th the Secretary authorizes him to draw from Virginia her quota of 2,000, from Pennsylvania 5,000, and informed him that the district militia were at his disposal; making 6,000 from Maryland, the estimate of 15,000 men.)

(In a letter of the 13th of August, from General Winder to the Secretary of War, he states that in consequence of the acceptance of the 2d regiment of General Smith's division, and the impracticability and impropriety of taking any portion of the militia from the eastern shore of Maryland, and the necessity of leaving the men upon the bay for local defence, instead of 3,000 he would not get as many hundred at Bladensburgh. He suggests the propriety of taking the troops, about 1,000, drawn out under the State authority, into the service of the United States, and to call on Pennsylvania for one regiment which would make his militia between 2 and 3,000, besides the 2d regiment from General Smith's division. In answer the Secretary authorizes him to take them into the service of the United States. On the 27th July the Governor of Maryland, in a letter to the Secretary of War, states that the requisition of the President was complied with, and that the requisition of General Winder for the 3,000 drafts, was ordered to embody. On July 30th General Winder made a requisition on the Governor of Maryland for 3,000 militia; and on the 5th of August the Governor informs him that his demand could not be complied with. On the 14th of July Mr. Boileau, Secretary of State of Pennsylvania, writes to the Secretary of War to the same effect, already mentioned, in relation to the difficulties, &c. resulting from the non-exis-

tence of the militia laws of that State; but relies on the patriotism of the people. On the 14th of July the Deputy Adjutant General, in answer to the communication from the War Department, containing the requisition of the 4th July, states that orders had been issued by the Governor of Virginia, placing a provisional force of 15,000 in readiness for defence, &c. to be organized for three months only; he also states that the whole militia would be furnished with arms, &c. by Virginia; and on the 18th, the Secretary of War informs the Governor that 2,000 of the Virginia militia would be placed at the disposition of General Winder.)

In relation to General Winder, the committee states that on the 4th or 5th of July he received notice of his appointment to the 10th military district, and proceeded to Washington, when the Secretary of War enumerated the regular force, and showed him the requisition of the 4th. He then proceeded to explore the 10th military district generally. On the 17th, at Nottingham, he was informed that the enemy was ascending the Patuxent, wrote to the Secretary and General West, advising him to collect the militia. The 36th and 38th regiments were ordered to Nottingham, and three companies of city militia were sent to him. On the 18th August information was received that the enemy's fleet had on the 17th, been considerably re-enforced. Immediately requisitions were made on the Governors of Pennsylvania and Maryland. Various officers and the district militia were ordered out *en masse*. On the 19th General Winder submits several propositions relative to the defence of the City, which the Secretary of War informs him had been submitted to the President, and refers him to the Navy Department in relation to the means in that department. His call on the militia *en masse* is approved, and advised that the cavalry be pushed immediately into the neighbourhood of the enemy. On the 20th information was received of the arrival of the enemy at Benedict, in force; and the same day Colonel Tilman and Captain Caldwell were despatched to annoy the enemy, impede his march, and remove and destroy his forage and provisions.

On Sunday morning the 21st, the troops were mustered, and the articles of war read to them. At 12 o'clock the marines under Captain Miller joined the army; the regulars of the 36th and 38th also joined at the Wood Yard, seven miles in advance, to which the main body of our troops were marched, and encamped on Sunday night. Two letters from Colonel Monroe, on the 21st, one stating that he had viewed the enemy near Benedict, enumerated 27 square rigged vessels, some bay craft and barges; the other dated at Nottingham, stating the advance of the enemy upon that place by land and water; and recommending the commanding General to despatch 5 or 600 men to fall upon the enemy. Colonels Monroe and Beall³ both joined the army at night, and gave an account that the enemy had been viewed by them. Colonel Beall calculated that he had seen 4,000, without supposing he had seen all. Colonel Monroe estimated the enemy at about 6,000; Captain Herbert joins with his troops; Colonel Lavall had joined with two companies of cavalry on the day previous; the enemy remained at Nottingham, except an advanced detachment about three miles from town. Monday the 22d, early in the morning a light detachment was ordered to meet the enemy, composed of the 36th and 38th, Lieutenant Colonel Scott, Colonel Lavall's cavalry, and three companies from the brigade of General Smith, under Major Peter, viz., his own company of artillery, Captain Stull's corps, Captain Davison's light infantry. This detachment marched on the road to Nottingham, about nine o'clock; the remainder of the army marched about one mile in advance to an elevated position; the commanding General with his staff, accompanied by Colonel Monroe, proceeded in advance to reconnoiter the march of the enemy. Commodore Barney had joined the army with his flotillamen, besides the marines under Captain Miller; the horse preceded the advanced detachment of our forces, met the enemy, and retired before them. This induced the advance corps to take a position to impede the march of the enemy; but the advance detachment was ordered to

3. William D. Beall (1755-1829) Colonel 5th Infantry—a veteran of the Revolution.

retrograde and join the main body of the army that had remained some hours in line of battle, expecting the enemy to come that route to the city, but they were disappointed, for he took the road to Upper Marlborough, turning to his right after having come within a few miles of our forces; upon which the commanding General fell back with his whole forces to the battalion's old field, about eight miles from Marlborough, and about the same distance from the city of Washington. At this time heavy explosions in the direction of Marlborough announced the destruction of the flotilla under command of Commodore Barney. The enemy arrived at Upper Marlborough about 2 o'clock, and remained there until late next day, to be joined, it is presumed, by the detachment of the enemy which had been sent against the flotilla.

The commanding General proceeded to Marlborough and found the enemy encamped; several prisoners taken gave information that the enemy would remain in that position until the next day, and after making observations of the enemy until the close of the day, General Winder returned to the army*. Late in the evening of this day, the President, with the Secretaries of War and Navy, and the Attorney General, joined General Winder at the battalion old fields, and remained with him till the evening of the 23d. In the morning the troops were drawn up and reviewed by the President. The most contradictory reports prevailed as to the movements and force of the enemy, and it was doubted in camp whether Annapolis, Fort Washington, with a view to cooperate with his naval forces, or the city of Washington, was his object. As to numbers, rumours vibrated from 4 to 12,000; the best opinion was from 5 to 7,000. Our forces at this time at the old fields, are variously estimated, with no material difference, at about 3,000 men, in the following corps: about 400 horse under the command of the following officers: Lieutenant Colonel Lavall, Colonel Tilghman, Captains Caldwell, Thornton, Herbert, Wil-

*He might have been much better employed in flanking and obstructing the roads.

liams, &c.; 400 regular troops, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Scott, viz. 36th, 38th, and Captain Morgan's⁴ company of the 12th infantry; 600 marines and flotillamen under Commodore Barney and Captain Miller, with five pieces of heavy artillery, two 18 pounders, and three 12 pounders, 1,800 militia and volunteers, General Smith's brigade of Georgetown and city militia, and Maryland militia under Colonel Kramer, of which there were two companies of artillery under Captain Burch and Major Peter, with 6 pounders each, making an aggregate of 3,200, with 17 pieces of artillery. The enemy was without cavalry, and had two small field pieces and one howitzer, drawn by men; and the whole country well calculated for defence, skirmishing, and to impede the march of an enemy.)

The enemy remained at Upper Marlborough till after 12 o'clock; about which time General Winder again ordered the detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Scott and Major Peter to advance and meet the enemy if he should be found advancing, or to attack his positions. About this time, 12 o'clock, some prisoners were taken; and from the information given by them, and the observations of the videts, General Winder was induced to believe that the enemy intended to remain stationary for the day, which induced him to think of uniting with him the forces at Bladensburgh, and despatched orders to General Stansbury, and other corps at Bladensburgh, to move direct for Upper Marlborough, and proceeded himself towards Bladensburgh, to meet and hurry on the forces to form a junction.) When General Winder left the command with General Smith and proceeded towards Bladensburgh with several troops of cavalry, he left orders that the advanced corps should march upon the enemy and annoy him by all possible means, if in march, or if not, then in his positions; and if he advanced upon Bladensburgh General Smith, with the main body, should fall upon his flank, or be governed by circumstances in other movements.

4. Captain Willoughby Morgan, (Col. 1st Infantry, 1830).

Captain Caldwell joined the advanced corps at two o'clock, P. M. An express brought intelligence that the enemy had left Upper Marlborough; that our advance had met the enemy about six miles in advance of our forces, and after a skirmish, in which Captain Stull's company had about four or five rounds, was compelled to retreat; and that the enemy was advancing. One of the Aids of General Smith was despatched for General Winder, who had arrived some time previous, ordered the army to march to the city of Washington. The enemy was about three miles distant, and remained there that night. Having remained till the going down of the sun, the retreat to the city was induced by several considerations, stated by the commanding General. (1st. To effect a union of his whole forces. 2d. The fear of a night attack, from the superiority of the enemy and want of discipline in his troops. And 3d. In a night attack, his superiority in artillery could not be used. The march of our army to the city was extremely rapid and precipitate, and orders occasionally given to Captains of companies to hurry on the men, who were extremely fatigued and exhausted before the camping ground was reached near the Eastern branch ridge, within the district of Columbia.)

General Stansbury had arrived at Bladensburgh on the 22d, and the 5th Baltimore regiment, including the artillery and rifle corps, on the evening of the 23d; and at 12 o'clock at night, Colonel Monroe, in passing through Bladensburgh to the city of Washington, advised General Stansbury to fall upon the rear of the enemy forthwith, as it was understood that he was in motion for the city. General Stansbury having been ordered to take post at Bladensburgh, did not think he was at liberty to leave it; but independent of this consideration, the fatigue of the troops under Colonel Sterret made it impracticable.

It is here proper to state that on the 22d, the Secretary of War, in a letter to General Winder, which closes their written communications previous to the 24th, except a short note of that morning,

states that he had ordered General Douglass to march with his command to the district without seeking a rendezvous with General Hungerford; that a detachment of the 12th infantry had arrived; that it should be armed, equipped and marched to the Wood Yard; that the Baltimore brigade would arrive at Bladensburgh that day; and suggests the propriety of throwing Barney's seamen and some other troops on the right of Nottingham, a demonstration which would menace the rear of the enemy, and his communication with shipping, which would, if not stop, much retard his progress. On the morning of the 24th, in a short note to the Secretary of War, General Winder says the information up the river is threatening; Barney or some other force should occupy the batteries at Greenleaf's Point and Navy Yard, and wishes counsel from the government or Secretary of War. Upon this note is an endorsement in the handwriting of General Armstrong, to this effect: "Went to General Winder, saw no necessity for ordering Barney to Greenleaf's Point or Navy Yard—advised the Commodore to join the army at Bladensburgh, and ordered Minor's regiment to that place."

On the 21st, late at night, Colonel Taylor arrived in the city from the Northern Neck, where he had been charged with orders in relation to Virginia drafts, and reported himself to General Armstrong, who issued the following general order:

WAR DEPARTMENT, 22d August, 1814.—12 o'clock.

General Order.

General Douglass will assemble his brigade at Alexandria, and hold it there subject to orders.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

Colonel Taylor executed this order, and Tuesday night, the 23d, again reported himself to General Armstrong, who issued the following orders:

WAR DEPARTMENT.

General Order.

Lieutenant Colonel Minor will repair to Washington with the regiment under his command, with the utmost despatch; he will report on his arrival to Colonel Carberry of the 36th regiment, and make a requisition for arms and ammunition.

(Signed)

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

WAR DEPARTMENT, August 23, 1814.

General Order.

All the militia now in and marching to Alexandria, besides Colonel Minor, will march immediately to Washington; these orders will be communicated by Colonel Taylor.

JOHN ARMSTRONG.

On the 18th of August, General Van Ness ordered General Young to call out, *en masse*, the brigade under his command, including the Alexandria militia; the same day two troops of cavalry attached to the brigade were ordered to rendezvous at Bladensburg on the 19th, at 4 o'clock in the morning, to accompany Colonel Monroe, Secretary of State, and to be subject to his order. On the 20th in the afternoon, General Young's brigade was ordered by General Winder to cross the Potomack opposite Alexandria, and encamp in the best positions and wait further orders, which was effected. The brigade consisting of 454 men, two brass six pounders, and one brass four pounder. On the 22d early, General Young, by orders of General Winder, marched his brigade and took a position on a height near the head of Piscataway creek, about 3 miles in the rear of Fort Washington, where the ground was favourable for a small detachment to defend the country against a much greater force, and remained in this position until the morning of the 24th, when several orders were given to him; first to march towards the Eastern Branch bridge; second to cross the Potomack to the Virginia side, &c. This brigade was intended

in its dispositions to aid Fort Washington, the town of Alexandria, and to be in a situation to join General Winder.

On the morning of the 24th, General Winder established his head quarters near the Eastern Branch bridge; detachments of horse were out in various directions as videts and reconnoitering parties, and arrangements made to destroy the Eastern Branch bridge. Colonel George Minor with his regiment of Virginia militia, composed of 600 infantry and 100 cavalry, arrived at the city of Washington in the twilight of the evening of the 23d; he called on the President, who referred him to the Secretary of War for orders; the Secretary informed him that arms could not be had that night, but gave orders to report himself to Colonel Carberry⁵ early in the morning, who would furnish him with arms and ammunition, as he was charged with that duty by General Winder. From early in the morning till late in the afternoon, Colonel Minor sought Colonel Carberry diligently, but he could not be found. He rode to head quarters and obtained an order from General Winder upon the arsenal for arms, &c. marched to the place with his regiment, and its care he found committed to a young man whose caution in giving out arms, &c. very much delayed the arming and supplying this regiment. An instance is here given—when the flints were counted out by the officers of the regiment, to expedite business at this crisis, the young man would count them over before they could be obtained.)

Colonel Carberry arrived at this moment, apologized for his absence, and informed Colonel Minor that he had the evening previous ridden out to his country seat.* Colonel Minor was again delayed some length of time in having to remain to sign receipts. &c. His men were ordered to Capitol Hill; in the mean time various reports were brought into headquarters as to the movements

5. Henry Carberry, Colonel 38th Infantry. A veteran of the Revolution. Died 1822.

*What must be thought of an officer having choice of all the arms at such a trying crisis, to be off on a visit? Villain! you are welcome to your own conscience.

and intentions of the enemy; the President and heads of departments collected at headquarters, in the following order: The President, next Secretary of State, next the Attorney General, next the Secretary of the Navy, and last the Secretary of War and Treasurer together. Colonel Monroe had left headquarters upon a rumour that gained ground, that the enemy was marching upon the city by way of Bladensburgh, with a view of joining General Stansbury, advising him of the rumour and to aid him in the formation of a line of battle to meet the enemy. General Stansbury, for reasons given in his report, had marched from his position in advance of Bladensburgh, and occupied the ground west of that village on the banks of the Eastern Branch. Here the front line of battle was formed by General Stansbury and his officers, with the aid of Colonel Monroe, on the presumption that General Stansbury's brigade and the command of Colonel Sterret, including (included?) the command of Major Pinkney⁶ and Baltimore artillery.

There is a bridge over the Eastern Branch at Bladensburgh, and a large turnpike road leading direct to the city of Washington. About four hundred yards from this bridge, some small distance to the left of the road, the Baltimore artillery, six pieces of six pounders, occupied a temporary breastwork of earth, well calculated to command the pass over the bridge. Part of the battalion of riflemen, under Major William Pinkney, and one other company, took position on the right of the artillery, partially protected by a fence and brush; and on the left of the battery, leading to the rear of a barn, two companies from the regiments under Colonel Shutz, and the other part of the riflemen from Baltimore. Colonel Ragan⁷ was posted in the rear of Major Pinkney, his right resting on the road; Colonel Shutz continuing the line on the left, with a small vacancy in the centre of the two regiments; and Colonel Sterret formed the extreme left flank of the infantry. At this moment Colonels Beall and Hood entered Bladensburgh with the Mary-

6. Ninian Pinkney, Major 5th Infantry.

7. John Ragan, Captain Rifles 1808-11. Lt. Col. Baltimore Vols.

land militia from Annapolis, crossed the bridge and took a position on a most commanding height on the right of the turnpike, about 300 yards from the road, to secure the right flank. In the meantime, (about 11 o'clock) certain intelligence was received at headquarters, that the enemy was in full march towards Bladensburgh; which induced General Winder to put in motion his whole force, except a few men and a piece of artillery left at the Eastern Branch bridge to destroy it. The day was hot, and the road dusty; the march was rapid to Bladensburgh. The cavalry and mounted men arrived, and were placed on the left flank, and some small distance in its rear. General Winder now arrived, and told General Stansbury and Colonel Monroe that his whole force was marching for Bladensburgh, and approved the dispositions which had been made of the troops; at which moment it had become impracticable, in the opinion of the officers, for the two armies were now coming to the battle ground in opposite directions; and the enemy appeared on the opposite heights of Bladensburgh, about a mile distant, and halted fifteen or twenty minutes. This was about 12 o'clock. The above was the exact disposition of the two armies. The reader has the issue of this fatal day on the title page of this battle, if it is not a disgrace to call it such.

BATTLE OF BALTIMORE.

THE British army immediately after the destruction of the city of Washington, began to make preparations for an attack on Baltimore, a city for which they held the most fiend-like hatred. And being elated with that success which treachery had imparted to them on a late occasion. The city of Baltimore was doomed in their diabolical calculations to share the fate of Hampton, where the watchword was "Booty and Beauty;" & it is a fact well known, that the same promise was made to the British Army when landed before Baltimore; and nothing else expected by its devoted citizens, should they fall into the hands of these

modern cannibals, but slaughter, rapine, blood and murder. The alarm in fact, was so great on account of the savage, dishonorable warfare of the British, that as soon as the alarm guns were fired on the observatory, thousands of females with their children were to be seen, making their way with fear and wretchedness depicted on their countenances, through fields and woods, not knowing where they were going; while the male population were rapidly forming their regiments and marching to the attack of their invading foes. On the 10th of Sept. intelligence was received that 50 hostile sail were ascending the bay; a part of that formidable expedition touched at North Point, fourteen miles below Baltimore, and disembarked their land forces. The citizens of Baltimore turned out *en masse*. A part of General Winder's force had repaired to that city, in anticipation of an attack. The Militia of the vicinity came in. The whole were under the command of a veteran officer of the Revolution, General Samuel Smith of Baltimore. General Stricker took a position at the junction of the two roads leading from the city to North Point; his right flanked by Cove Creek and his left by a marsh. Here he awaited the approach of the enemy. A reconnoitering detachment met the enemy's advance, skirmished and retreated to the line. Between 2 and 3 o'clock the enemy's whole force came up and commenced battle by some discharges of rockets; and soon after the action became general along the whole line. General Stricker gallantly maintained his position against a great superiority of numbers, for the space of one hour and twenty minutes, when the 51st Regiment on his left gave away, which obliged him to fall back on his reserve. He then formed his brigade, but the enemy having lost their commander in chief General Ross, did not renew the attack, and the General fell back to the entrenchments near the city. The enemy made some further demonstrations; but finding our troops on the alert at all points, and the entrenchments strong and well manned, silently withdrew his troops in the night. General Smith states the British loss, as nearly as he could ascertain, at between six and seven hundred. General

Stricker's brigade lost alone about one hundred fifty killed and wounded. At the same time the British were advancing by land, their fleet made its approach by water, and commenced a discharge of rockets and bombs, as soon as it came in range of Fort M'Henry. The situation of Major Armistead,⁸ the commander of the fort, was peculiarly trying; the enemy having taken his position at such a distance as to render offensive operations on his part entirely fruitless while the bombs and rockets were every moment falling in and about it; the officers and men being at the same time exposed. The vessels, however, had the temerity to approach somewhat nearer. They were as soon compelled to withdraw. During the night, while the land forces of the enemy were retreating, and whilst the bombardment was the most severe, two or three rocket vessels and several barges succeeded in getting up the ferry branch; but they were soon compelled to retire, by the forts and batteries in that quarter. These forts also destroyed some of the barges with all on board. The loss in Fort M'Henry was four killed and twenty-four wounded. The enemy finding that there was little to be expected from their attack but hard blows, disappeared on the morning of the 11th. Among the distinguished citizens of Baltimore, who fell on the 11th, was James Louny Donaldson, a representative in the State Legislature from that city. The British Admiral, Sir Peter Parker, was killed in one of the enemy's predatory* excursions. When it was ascertained on the morning of the 12th, that the British had retreated, orders were given (I believe by General Smith) for the baggage wagons to go down the whole length of the battle ground, and bring up the dead and wounded who had unavoidably been left on the field. The orders were scarcely given, when it was known in the city; and by the time they had returned, from five to ten thousand women and children were collected; their business was too plainly depicted in their countenances, to be misunderstood. When the dead were laid along on

8. George Armistead, Major Corps of Artillery.

*Predatory.

the green inside of the entrenchments that those who had relatives could receive them, and the work of examination commenced, then was a scene which baffles the pen of the historian to describe; even at this late day the screams, the groans, the faintings among the females and aged part of the population, with the frequent exclamations of, "Oh! my husband! oh! my child!" are, as it were, distinctly heard. The author was at all times prepared for the sight of death and destruction in the field of battle, but not for the awful heartrending scene which was here manifested by the lovely daughters of America, in the loss of all they held dear on earth. The author will conclude his account of the battle by mentioning two circumstances which transpired near him while the dead were about to be disposed of; the first of which was an old gentleman, he would think to be from seventy to eighty years of age, who trembled from head to foot, as an aspen leaf; and stooping down, was in the act of viewing two young men, when the question was asked him whether he had lost a connexion? With tears streaming down his cheeks, he replied, "Yes sir, in the Revolution I lost my father and two brothers, and here lie my two sons, but (said he) they have died in a good cause." Turning to disguise my feelings, I observed a young lady I supposed to have been lately married. She was stooping and in the act of viewing a man who from appearance had been shot for some time. She examined his coat, his waistcoat, and still seemed undetermined; at last she opened the breast of his shirt and exclaimed, clapping her hands together "Oh God!" and fainted. The feelings of the author were so agitated by an observance of these circumstances—he immediately left the field of weeping, lamentation and woe.

BATTLE OF NEW-ORLEANS.

ENTRANCE INTO PENSACOLA.

THIS place had long been a principal rendezvous for the Indians and British, much to the prejudice of the United States.

In November 1814, General Jackson, indignant at the barefaced violation of the neutrality of the place, determined to enter the place and seize on its defences. On his approach he sent an officer with a flag to the Governor, who was fired upon from Fort St. George. This outrage produced a resolution in the Commander in-Chief to storm the place, which was defended by British and Spanish troops, and seven English ships of war in the harbour. Our troops advanced for this purpose; as they were entering the town they were saluted with a shower of ball and grape from a battery and the musketry from the houses and gardens. The Governor met the officers in advance with a flag, begged for mercy, and surrendered the town and fort unconditionally. The British blew up the principal fort, called the Baruncas, which commands the entrance into the bay. After this General Jackson repaired to New-Orleans, which was then menaced with an attack from a most formidable naval and military expedition.

On the 12th of December, the British fleet, with the expedition on board, arrived at Ship Island in the bay of St. Louis, and about seventy miles N. E. of New-Orleans. On the 13th they landed at Pass Christianne, which communicates with Lake Ponchartrain, with one hundred and six barges, manned by upwards of a thousand men and officers from the squadron, and proceeded directly in quest of the American flotilla, commanded by Lieutenant Jones, which they engaged on the 14th. The American force consisted of two light schooners, five gun-boats carrying twenty-three guns, manned with 182 men. The sanguinary character of this contest has few parallels. Several of the barges were sunk. Our little force was finally overpowered and taken; not, however, until they had killed or disabled nearly four hundred of their en-



Gen'l Gibbs

Gen'l Packingham

Gen'l Lambert

BATTLE OF NEW ORLEANS

8th of January, 1815

emies.* The capture of our flotilla gave the enemy command of the lakes, and enabled him to choose his point of attack.

But it was yet doubtful at what point the enemy would strike the contemplated blow; whether he would approach through the lakes, or attempt to ascend the Mississippi by the way of the Balize and Fort St. Phillip. General Jackson was indefatigable in his preparations to receive him. Large bodies of Tennessee and Kentucky militia were on their way for the defence of the city. The numerous approaches from the side of the lakes, were carefully guarded. The eyes of the Union were directed to this new theatre of war.

The enemy approached the city by the way of the lakes, and on the 23d of December succeeded in reaching the Mississippi six miles below New-Orleans, undiscovered by any one disposed to give the intelligence. The artillery and baggage were conveyed in boats up the Bayou and canal which passes from the Levee to Lake Borgne, and through the farm of Mr. Villeré. Had it not been for the fortunate escape of the son of Mr. Villeré, they would have reached the city before it was known that they had disembarked at the mouth of the Bayou. This unexpected appearance of the enemy is not to be attributed to any want of precaution in the commanding General. He had guarded all the approaches; a picket had been stationed at the mouth of the Bayou, which was completely surprised.

It was about 12 o'clock when the news of their arrival reached the General, who, apprehending a double attack by the way of Chef Monteau, left General Carroll's and the militia of the city to guard the canal of Carondelet, and at 5 o'clock marched with five hundred men to meet the enemy, at that time about three thousand strong, occupying a line upon the river of half a mile extent and leisurely employed in cooking their suppers. Commodore Patterson, in the *Carolina* schooner, was ordered to drop

*See the official account.

down the river and open a fire upon their camp, which he executed about half past seven. His fire was the signal for our troops to attack, which they executed with great spirit. General Coffee's brigade rushed into the enemy's camp. Several other corps did the same. The city riflemen penetrated to the enemy's centre, were surrounded, and fought their way out again, bringing off a number of prisoners. One hour after the commencement of the action a thick fog arose which produced some confusion. It became prudent to recall the troops from a murderous conflict of doubtful result. Our men lay on their arms during the night, and in the morning took a stronger position two miles nearer the city. General Jackson lost about one hundred men killed, wounded and prisoners. The enemy must have suffered severely from the certain aim of the riflemen.* Colonel Lauderdale of General Coffee's corps fell, nobly fighting at the head of his regiment. Colonels Dyer and Gibson, of the same corps, were wounded.

On the 27th, the enemy succeeded in blowing up the *Carolina* schooner, which had become becalmed. The enemy fired her by hot shot from a land battery. The crew escaped by swimming.

The next day the enemy marched up the Levee for the purpose of forcing the American lines. At the distance of half a mile he opened upon our works with bombs and rockets. They continued to advance in solid column until they were saluted with a shower of canister and grape, when they fell on their bellies and laid still until it was dark, and retired under cover of the night. Their loss on this occasion was about one hundred.

The *New Year* opened by a discharge from the enemy's batteries; the principal fire was on the left, near the cypress woods. Twelve Americans were killed—many of the enemy were killed and wounded.

*A journal found upon one of the British officers killed in the assault of the 8th of January, mentioned that they lost on the night of the 23d of December, 224 killed, and an immense number wounded.

On the 2d, General Jackson ordered a sortie of four hundred men, half of them mounted, to go and reconnoiter the enemy's batteries which had fired so briskly on the preceding day. It was found by the sallying party that our fire had dismounted several of their guns, which they had taken off, razed their redoubts, and retreated to their first lines.

General Adair from Kentucky, arrived with four thousand men, and encamped three miles above the city. Considerable inconvenience was experienced for the want of arms, in consequence of the continual arrival of the militia.

At this time the enemy received a re-enforcement of three thousand men, under General Lambert. On the 7th they were disembarked at the Bayou Bienvenu. The same evening they dug through the Levee to admit the river into the canal, through which they dragged twenty-five of their boats and thus transported six hundred of their men to the opposite side of the river, for the purpose of attacking the batteries and a party of Kentucky militia entrusted with their defence. These troops under the command of Colonel Thornton, were intended to create a diversion on that side of the river, while the main attack was carried on the east side.

Accordingly, before day-light on the morning of the 8th, they moved in silence upon the American intrenchments, Let us first introduce the official account of the various fortunes of the day:

Camp, 4 miles below Orleans, 9th Jan. 1815.

SIR—During the day of the 6th and 7th, the enemy had been actively employed in making preparations for an attack on my lines. With infinite labour they had succeeded on the night of the 7th in getting their boats across from the lake to the river, by widening and deepening the canal on which they had effected their disembarkation. It had not been in my power to impede these operations by a general attack; added to other reasons, the nature of

the troops under my command, mostly militia, rendered it too hazardous to attempt extensive *offensive* movements on an open country, against a numerous and well disciplined army. Although my forces, as to number, had been increased by the arrival of the Kentucky division, my strength had received very little addition; a small portion only of that detachment being provided with arms. Compelled thus to wait the attack of the enemy I took every measure to repel it when it should be made, and to defeat the object he had in view. General Morgan, with the New-Orleans contingent, the Louisiana militia, and a strong detachment of the Kentucky troops, occupied an intrenched camp on the opposite side of the river, protected by strong batteries on the back, erected and superintended by Commodore Patterson.

In my encampment every thing was ready for action, when, early on the morning of the 8th, the enemy after throwing a heavy shower of bombs and Congreve rockets, advanced their columns on my right and left, to storm my intrenchments. I cannot speak sufficiently in praise of the firmness and deliberation with which my whole line received their approach; *more* could not have been expected from veterans inured to war. For an hour the fire of the small arms was as incessant and severe as can be imagined. The artillery, too, directed by officers who displayed equal skill and courage, did great execution. Yet the columns of the enemy continued to advance with a firmness which reflects upon them the greatest credit. Twice the column which approached me on my left, was repulsed by the troops of General Carroll, those of General Coffee, and a division of the Kentucky militia, and twice they formed again and renewed the assault. At length, however, cut to pieces, they fled in confusion from the field, leaving it covered with their dead and wounded. The loss which the enemy sustained on this occasion, cannot be estimated at less than fifteen hundred in killed, wounded and prisoners. Upwards of three hundred have already been delivered over for burial; and my men are still engaged in

picking them up within my lines and carrying them to the point where the enemy are to receive them. This is in addition to the dead and wounded whom the enemy have been enabled to carry from the field during and since action, and to those who have since died of the wounds they received. [We have taken about five hundred prisoners, upwards of three hundred of whom are wounded, and a great part of them mortally.] [My loss has not exceeded, and I believe has not amounted to ten killed, and as many wounded.] [The entire destruction of the enemy's army was now inevitable, had it not been for an unfortunate occurrence which at this moment took place on the other side of river. Simultaneously with his advance upon my lines, he had thrown over in his boats a considerable force to the other side of the river. These having landed were hardly enough to advance against the works of General Morgan; and what is strange and difficult to account for, at the very moment when their entire discomfiture was looked for with a confidence approaching to certainty, the Kentucky re-enforcements ingloriously fled, drawing after them, by their example, the remainder of the forces; and thus yielding to the enemy at the most fortunate position. The batteries which had rendered me for many days the most important service, though bravely defended, were of course now abandoned; not, however, until the guns had been spiked.]

This unfortunate rout had totally changed the aspect of affairs. The enemy now occupied a position from which they might annoy us without hazard, and by means of which they might have been enabled to defeat, in a great measure, the effects of our success on this side of the river. It became therefore an object of the first consequence to dislodge him as soon as possible. For this object all the means in my power which I could with any safety use, were immediately put in preparation. [Perhaps, however, it was somewhat owing to another cause that I succeeded beyond my expectations. In negotiating the terms of a temporary suspension in hos-

tilities to enable the enemy to bury their dead and provide for their wounded, I had required certain propositions to be acceded to as a basis; among which this was one: that although hostilities should cease on *this* side the river until 12 o'clock of this day, yet it was not to be understood that they should cease on the *other* side; but that no re-enforcements should be sent across by either army until the expiration of the day. His excellency Major General Lambert begged time to consider those propositions until 10 o'clock of to-day, and in the mean time re-crossed his troops. I need not tell you with how much eagerness I immediately regained possession of the position he had thus hastily quitted."

After the signal defeat of the enemy on the 8th, they showed no disposition to renew the attack. But General Jackson did not long permit them to remain undisturbed; a constant cannonade was kept up from all our batteries, and on the night of 18th of January the enemy silently withdrew to their boats on lake Borgne. They left on the field sixteen pieces of cannon, their equipments, and an immense quantity of ball. Seventy of their wounded were mangled to such a degree that it was impossible to remove them. These they recommended to the humanity of the American commander.

The British ships of war which attempted to ascend the Mississippi, found themselves completely checked to Fort St. Phillip. They bombarded the fort for nine days; during which time they threw about one thousand shells at our works. They withdrew on the 17th of January. This fort has forty-four cannon, and is considered bomb proof. It was defended by five hundred men under the command of the brave Major Overton.*

*Walter Overton, Major Corps of Artillerists.

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